[4th November 1933

Appendix I.

[*Vide* answer to question No. 343 asked by Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th November 1933, page 530 supra.]

Letter from the President and Members of the Adyar Govindaraja Perumal Fishermen Co-operative Society, Greenways road Adyar, dated 28th December 1932, to the hon. Minister, Education and Excise, Government of Madras.

We, the President of Govindaraja Perumal Fishermen Co-operative Society, Narayanaswami garden, Adyar, and the fishermen of twelve villages, adjoining the Adyar river, beg to state as follows:—

(1) That we are in receipt of the Government Memorandum No. 2628/II/31-5, dated 22nd December 1932, ordering the publication of the notification cancelling the rules published by the Development Department Notification No. 137, dated 13th April 1931, prohibiting fishing with nets exceeding 75 feet in length or 15 feet in breadth in that portion of the Adyar river that lies within the limits of the Madras district.

(2) That the draft notification published at page 1891 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 6th December 1932, stated that the draft would be taken into consideration after fourteen days from the date of its publication and that any objection or suggestion which may be received with respect thereto before the expiry of that period, would be considered by the Governor acting with the Ministers.

(3) That on 6th December 1932 we, accordingly petitioned Government that our case might be sympathetically reconsidered and orders passed restoring the rules published at page 545 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 21st April 1931.

(4) That it is extremely painful for the petitioners to note that the Government have published rules cancelling the prohibition of fishing with nets of the size mentioned in paragraph 1 above in spite of our humble representation that justice should be done to us.

(5) That as soon as the Government Memorandum No. 2628/II/31-5, dated 22nd December 1932, was received, the fishermen of Dumming Kuppam started fishing with agni valai on 26th afternoon and are still continuing to fish with that net. Their income on the 26th alone was Rs. 200.

(6) That the action of the Dumming Kuppam fishermen has completely emptied the river with the result that we all the fishermen of Narayanasami garden and other twelve villages have no means to get even a single fish with our mani valai and that we are driven to be starving from yesterday (26th December 1932).

(7) And that we approach Government once more and humbly request them to rceonsider the matter and pass favourable orders on our petition, dated 6th December 1932.

4th November 1933]

Letter from the President, Adyar Govindaraja Perumal Fishermen Co-operative Society, Greenways road, Narayanaswami garden, Adyar, to the Secretary to Government, Development Department, Fort St. George, Madras.

In continuation of our petition, dated 28th December 1932, we, the President of Govindaraja Perumal Fishermen Co-operative Society, Adyar, and the fishermen of the twelve villages adjoining the Adyar river, beg to submit as follows.

2. On our repeated representations to Government that the use of the big nets (agni valai 300 yards size) for fishing in the Adyar river by the fishermen of Dumming Kuppam deprived us of our livelihood and made us to starve, Government were pleased to publish rules on 13th April 1931 prohibiting fishing in the above river with nets exceeding 75 feet by 15 feet in size. The above rules though published early in 1931, could not be made to come into operation till February 1932, as the fishermen of Dumming Kuppam continued to fish with agni valai 300 yards size on the pretext that they were not made aware of any rules prohibiting its use.

3. By the kind help of Government in this direction we were able to earn our livelihood till 28th November 1932 when Government all on a sudden published a draft rule cancelling the rules referred to in paragraph 2 above, and gave notice that the draft would be taken into consideration after fifteen days from the date of its publication.

4. We were really thunderstruck on receipt of communication of the above draft rule and in time we submitted our objection in the matter on 6th December 1932 describing in detail how our daily earnings were nothing when compared to those of Dumming Kuppam fishermen and how even this meagre income was affected by the use of agni valai. But to our disappointment we were furnished on 22nd December 1932 with a copy of the rule cancelling the notification, dated 13th April 1931.

5. Having been very much discouraged, we again petitioned on 28th December 1932 craving for justice. But, no favourable orders have yet been received from Government to rescue us from the clutches of poverty and hunger.

6. We once more wish to place, before the benevolent Government, that nearly 2,000 souls are starving without any means for earning livelihood, while three hundred fishermen of Dumming Kuppam of whom only thirteen own agni valai are made to live happily and comfortably and that the latter can very well get on even without the use of agni valai. We once again appeal to Government for sympathetic consideration of our case and favourable orders prohibiting fishing with big nets (agni valai) in the Adyar river.

7. We submit for the kind perusal of Government a letter, dated 3rd April 1933, in original from the hon. Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar, M.L.C., which will speak of our present-day situation.

Thanking you in anticipation.